

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of lubricating the passage of a cementitious composition through a conduit, comprising adding to the conduit prior to addition thereto of the cementitious composition, an aqueous solution of solid lubricating compositions consisting essentially of (i) alkali metal carbonate or alkali metal bicarbonate, (ii) poly(ethylene oxide), and (iii) anionic sulphate surfactant; and subsequently pumping or dropping the cementitious composition through the conduit.
2. (Previously Presented) A lubricating composition consisting essentially of a solid mixture of from about 80% to about 95% of at least one of an alkali metal carbonate or an alkali metal bicarbonate, from about 1% to about 10% of at least one poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 0.5% to about 3% of an alkali metal lauryl sulphate, all percentages being by weight of the total solid lubricating composition.
3. (Original) A lubricating composition according to claim 2, in which the composition additionally contains a water-soluble organic-functional acidic substance.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein if present the alkali metal bicarbonate is sodium bicarbonate.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the anionic sulphate surfactant is sodium lauryl sulphate.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the alkali metal carbonate or alkali metal bicarbonate, poly(ethylene oxide), and anionic sulphate surfactant are added as a single admixture to water to form the aqueous solution.
7. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2 wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate is sodium bicarbonate.

8. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2 wherein the alkali metal lauryl sulphate is sodium lauryl sulphate.
9. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2 wherein the poly(ethylene oxide) has a weight average MW of about 500,000 to about 8,000,000.
10. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 2 further characterized in that the composition, when added to water in an amount of about 1% to about 2% by weight of water, dissolves in the water within about 60 seconds to produce a solution wherein the pH is about 8 to about 8.5.
11. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3 wherein the water-soluble organic-functional acidic substance is at least one of carboxylic acid or citric acid.
12. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3 wherein the water-soluble organic-functional acidic substance is aminotri(methylenephosphonic acid).
13. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 3 wherein the water-soluble organic-functional acidic substance is present in an amount up to and including 10% by weight of the total solid lubricating composition.
14. (Previously Presented) A lubricating composition for cementitious compositions comprising a solid mixture of at least one of an alkali metal carbonate or alkali metal bicarbonate, a poly(ethylene oxide) and an alkali metal lauryl sulphate.
15. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 14 wherein the alkali metal bicarbonate is sodium bicarbonate.
16. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 14 wherein the alkali metal lauryl sulphate is sodium lauryl sulphate.
17. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 14 wherein the poly(ethylene oxide) has a weight average MW of about 500,000 to about 8,000,000.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 14 further characterized in that the composition, when added to water in an amount of about 1% to about 2% by weight of water, dissolves in the water within about 60 seconds to produce a solution wherein the pH is about 8 to about 8.5.

19. (New) The method of claim 6 wherein the single admixture is provided in a discrete amount in an easily tearable waterproof container or a water soluble container for adding to the water.